

Amendments to the Specification

In the Specification, please replace the paragraph appearing at page 4, lines 21-29, with the following amended paragraph:

According to an alternative embodiment of the present invention one or more water-immiscible additives can be admixed with the contamination barrier of the invention. Additives within the meaning of the present invention are understood to be hydrophobic substances that contribute additionally to the reduction or respective prevention of aerosol formation. Particularly preferred herein is the addition of ~~silicon~~ silicone oils of different compositions and viscosities. An important property of the ~~silicon~~ silicone oils within this context is their inert ~~behaviour~~ behavior towards other substrates. Their considerable spreading ability is also characteristic and is associated with the expression of certain properties, for example hydrophobicity.

In the Specification, please replace the paragraph appearing at page 5, lines 1-5, with the following amended paragraph:

~~Silicon~~ Silicone oils within the meaning of the invention are understood to be in the first instance synthetic oils based on semi-organic polymers and copolymers of silicon-oxygen units with organic side chains. These unbranched chains are constructed alternately of silicon and oxygen atoms, preferably have a chain length of 10 to 1000 silicon atoms, particularly preferred from 30 to 500 silicon atoms, most particularly preferred from 50 to 150 silicon atoms.

In the Specification, please replace the paragraph appearing at page 8, lines 25-26, with the following amended paragraph:

- a) with a sample volume of 285 μ l without alkane presence, and
- b) with a sample volume of ~~von~~ 285 μ l with alkane presence.

In the Specification, please replace the paragraph appearing at page 15, line 30, to page 16, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

The use of the contamination barrier of the invention was carried out in this case during the preparation of biotin labelled cRNA for hybridisation on microarrays (e.g. Human Genome U133B Array/Affymetrix, US), where different volumes of the contamination barrier was added to cRNA fragmentation batches. Different amounts of mineral oil or a mixture of mineral oil and ~~silicon~~ silicone oil were used as contamination barrier.

In the Specification at page 18, before the claims, please replace line 1 as follows:

~~Patent claims~~ What is claimed is: